

27 May 1968

MEMORANDUM FOR: Staff Personnel

SUBJECT : Letter of Information

GENERAL

1. Paris Peace Talks: The DRV announcement of its willingness to hold talks with U.S. officials in Paris was carried on the FBIS Wire Service 16 minutes after it was broadcast by Radio Hanoi. FBIS was 25 minutes ahead of Reuters and 67 minutes ahead of the Associated Press with the report, monitored by the Okinawa Bureau. Immediately, the State Department sent a "flash" telegram to its Far East missions quoting the FBIS report of the announcement.
(FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY)

The agreement to hold talks in Paris brought prompt calls from high-level Organization and State Department officials requesting FBIS support for the U.S. delegation to Paris. Following contacts with U.S. officials in Washington, London, and Paris, it was decided the FBIS London Bureau would initiate a direct full-duplex, 100-wpm teletype circuit between Caversham and Paris to relay pertinent material from all FBIS bureaus to the U.S. delegation. The lateral service requirements of the delegation were sent to bureaus following coordination with Organization officials. The file from FBIS bureaus to Paris has averaged 10,000-15,000 words per day. In addition, at the request of the Organization representative at Paris, copies of the Soviet Union, Asia & Pacific, Communist China, and Eastern Europe Daily Reports are being forwarded to the delegation via State Department pouch. (SECRET)

Based on an Organization requirement, the Propaganda Analysis Division began sending daily propaganda analysis support cables to the U.S. delegation in Paris over secure channels. PAD also responded to requests received directly from the delegation and from the State Department concerning DRV denials of North Vietnamese presence in South Vietnam. Examples of such statements as well as DRV denials of North Vietnamese military presence in Laos and Cambodia were forwarded. PAD also responded to a crash request from the Defense Department for Ambassador Harriman by supplying examples of charges by Souvanna Phouma of Laos and Prince Sihanouk of Cambodia of North Vietnamese and Viet Cong military presence in their respective countries. (SECRET)

S E C R E T

Group 1
Excluded from automatic down-
grading and declassification

S E C R E T

SUBJECT: Letter of Information, 27 May 1968

The Caribbean Bureau was able to assist the Okinawa Bureau in processing Xuan Thuy's statements at the Paris Conference by translating material from a French-language radioteletype transmission. (FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY)

2. Saigon Situation: Saigon Bureau operations were affected by a Viet Cong attack on the city of Saigon that began the morning of 5 May. There were initially severe travel restrictions and some local employees were unable to report for work. By 9 May fighting in the suburbs near the bureau combined with a heavy influx of refugees into the area resulted in an Embassy order to evacuate the building housing the FBIS bureau. The Viet Cong probe in the area was subsequently repulsed permitting operations to be resumed early on 10 May. The Bangkok and Okinawa bureaus provided backstop coverage during the period. On 19 May a mortar round hit a building immediately adjacent to the bureau, resulting in some damage to the FBIS bureau vehicle but no injuries to personnel. The same night two Staff employees were evacuated from their housing to the Embassy as a precautionary move. (CONFIDENTIAL)

3. BALPA Reduction: By direction of the President, all U.S. Government organizations operating abroad have been required to absorb a reduction in overseas positions as part of the program for dealing with the Nation's balance of payments problem. As a first step, the President directed that the total number of American personnel overseas be reduced by at least 10 percent, with similar reductions in employment of foreign national and contract personnel. The Senior Interdepartmental Group, chaired by Under Secretary Katzenbach, was assigned to carry out the directive, with some organizations forced to take reductions of more than 10 percent. (UNCLASSIFIED)

After an exhaustive study of FBIS overseas collection activities, it was regrettably decided to accomplish a 10 percent reduction by closure of the German Bureau and reduction of the African Bureau by 30 June 1969. Staff employees will be rotated to other FBIS assignments. (SECRET)

- 2 -

S E C R E T

S E C R E T

SUBJECT: Letter of Information, 27 May 1968

SERVICES AND REQUIREMENTS

4. Computerization of North Vietnamese Statements: The Propaganda Analysis Division's card file of authoritative North Vietnamese statements is being processed for computerized storage and retrieval. A memorandum from the Director of Intelligence and Research, Department of State, to the Director of Central Intelligence expressed special interest in this automation project. Approximately 3,200 entries are being transferred to magnetic tape for computer printout in the first stage, which is expected to be completed within 90 days. In the second stage, which is expected to take six to eight months, a computer program will be developed to permit rapid retrieval of statements in any of the 58 categories covered. The file will be expanded back to 1964 concurrent with the processing for computerization. (SECRET)

5. Other Propaganda Analysis: Report No. 2 in the biweekly Special Memorandum series on Hanoi and Liberation Radio propaganda on the U.S. election campaign was issued 3 May. Monthly Special Memorandums on Hanoi propaganda claims of civilian casualties from U.S. air strikes against North Vietnam are continuing, with Report No. 13 in this series also issued 3 May. (SECRET)

Special Report RS. 88 assembled North Korean statements on the South Korean "struggle" and the goal of Korean unification since January 1966, with an introductory summary of key themes. The Office of Strategic Research expressed special interest in this compilation. (SECRET)

Recent Prague propaganda manifestations of Czech uneasiness over the threat of Soviet interference were reviewed by PAD in a propaganda analysis item prepared for the FBIS Wire Service on 9 May, the day Western news sources began reporting rumors of Soviet troop movements in southern Poland toward Czechoslovakia. Other Propaganda analyses on the Wire Service provided background on Peking's reference to a dissident "Stalin group" in the USSR and discussed Chinese Communist regional radio behavior. (CONFIDENTIAL)

6. Support for U.S. Missions: At the request of an Organization component, the London, Key West, West Coast, and Caribbean bureaus were asked to file temporarily to the American Embassy office in Brasilia all references to the activities of Carlos Lacerda and Janio Quadros. (CONFIDENTIAL)

S E C R E T

SUBJECT: Letter of Information, 27 May 1968

With the implementation of the new 12-state structure in Nigeria, the African Bureau began disseminating copies of its daily file to four local government offices instead of the two serviced under the former area government. (FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY)

Preparatory work for a survey of Lateral Service consumers is continuing. Once completed, field bureaus will be asked to assist the Liaison and Requirements Office by forwarding the survey questionnaires to local or area consumers. A number of existing services have already been consolidated or rephrased as a result of the review of services now being made in connection with the survey. (SECRET)

7. Special Services: The German Bureau supplied Organization components with a four-part television film series on captured U.S. pilots in North Vietnam. The series, called "Pilots in Pajamas," was shown on East German television and the videotapes ran to more than five hours. The bureau also provided audio tapes and still photos of the film. (SECRET)

Asia Division, at the request of Ambassador Porter in Seoul, prepared a report comparing the Korean and Mongolian languages. The Life Sciences Branch of the USSR Division translated several Soviet military wall posters on biological and chemical warfare defense for OSI. (SECRET)

8. Press and Document Exploitation: The London PMU now has under full exploitation for current information 10 Soviet newspapers that were designated first priority by Headquarters. Linguists of the Europe, Africa, and Latin America Division exploited French press sources to obtain current information on the Landes ballistic missile test center, recent French rocket experiments in the Kerguelen Islands, and other information of current scientific interest. Asia Division linguists published a classified Special Memorandum containing translated materials from Communist Chinese regional newspapers received from a sensitive source. (SECRET)

PUBLICATIONS

9. Supplements: Three supplements to the Daily Report were published during the past month: "Materials on Internal Czechoslovak Political Developments, Volume VIII," dated 24 April, 68 pages; "Volume IX," dated 13 May, 50 pages; and "Report by First Premier Kim II to KWP Central Committee Plenum on 22 April 1968," dated 3 May, 43 pages. (FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY)

S E C R E T

S E C R E T

SUBJECT: Letter of Information, 27 May 1968

10. Consolidation of Reports: Effective 1 May the 10 individual Communist Chinese abstract reports issued by the domestic contractual facility were consolidated into one serial entitled, Communist Chinese Scientific Abstracts. (FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY)

11. Daily Report Microfilming: The microfilming of FBIS Daily Reports from 24 September 1941 through 4 June 1951 is approaching completion. On 20 May the last 40 volumes of Daily Reports for the period were forwarded to the Printing Services Division. The project was begun on 14 August 1963. (FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY)

12. Publication of Basic and Current Material: Broadcast material that is determined to be "basic" intelligence information is forwarded to the contractual facility for publication in the appropriate report. On the other hand, some "current" newspaper material is sent to the facility for rapid translation and returned for publication in the proper Daily Report. (CONFIDENTIAL)

13. Reimbursable Rate Increase: FBIS has increased its charge to other government agencies for reimbursable translation service provided by the contractual facility. The rate for translation per thousand words was increased from \$16.00 to \$20.00. (CONFIDENTIAL)

FIELD OPERATIONS

14. BBC Francistown Unit: The BBC Monitoring Unit set up in Francistown, Botswana to monitor Rhodesian broadcasts following that Rhodesia's unilateral declaration of independence in 1965, was moved to Blantyre, Malawi on 4 May and was in full operation on 8 May. (CONFIDENTIAL)

15. Czechoslovak Coverage: At FBIS invitation, to augment poor daytime reception of the Czechoslovak Domestic Service at Caversham, the BBC detailed one Czech monitor to the Austrian Bureau beginning 11 May. Seasonally deteriorating reception at Caversham had been causing undesirable losses of coverage of important developments. (FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY)

S E C R E T

SUBJECT: Letter of Information, 27 May 1968

16. Broadcast Developments: The USSR in its new summer schedule now broadcasts continuously in Mandarin to Communist China, with a 30-minute program segment each half hour around the clock. China, on the other hand, continues to transmit in Russian to the USSR with three to four Russian-language broadcasts running concurrently at times, totaling approximately 300 hours weekly. USSR broadcasts in Mandarin are covered by the Tokyo Bureau, and Peking in Russian by the Hokkaido Bureau.

In conjunction with the Paris conference, Hanoi VNA expanded its English radioteletype output by 12 hours per week. Okinawa Bureau has absorbed the coverage.

Radio Hanoi is being heard with a new program in Japanese which is broadcast over North Korean transmitters. The program appears to consist of a Hanoi-prepared tape transmitted from Pyongyang. The Okinawa and Tokyo Bureaus are sampling the program.

The UAR has begun for the first time Russian broadcasts totaling 7 hours weekly to the USSR and East and Central Europe. London Bureau is sampling. Cairo has also begun French broadcasts in two services totaling 12 hours weekly to Southeast Asia and to North America. Caribbean Bureau sampled these new broadcasts and found no unique material.

A high-powered mediumwave Cairo transmitter is now being used to broadcast programs attributed to and apparently sponsored by the Fatah terrorist organization in both Arabic and Hebrew. Mediterranean Bureau is covering this series. (FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY)

17. Reception Reports: Messages, whether cruising or other, reporting intercept of new broadcasts, programs, services, etc. should always indicate the quality of reception. Cruising reports dealing with significant changes of most types should note the reception level or quality. (FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY)

18. Mailing of Recordings: Bureaus are requested to include adequate packing material in mailing audiotape or videotape recordings in order to minimize damage from rough handling. While magnetic tapes are often less seriously affected by damage than the former engraved recordings, their

- 6 -

S E C R E T

S E C R E T

SUBJECT: Letter of Information, 27 May 1968

usable life is easily shortened if not ruined. Because of the high cost of videotape, crush-proof containers are recommended. (FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY)

ENGINEERING

19. Bangkok Antennas: A plan to improve the Bangkok Bureau's antenna system has been approved by Headquarters. The new antennas will cost approximately \$1,300 and should considerably improve the Bureau's monitoring potential. (CONFIDENTIAL)

20. Recorder Sets: Action has been initiated to procure 50 additional IBM recorder sets. Several technical modifications to improve the performance of this equipment have been incorporated. These modifications are the result of FBIS field experience with the equipment. Modification kits to up-date some 200 existing IBM recorder sets also are being procured. (CONFIDENTIAL)

MISCELLANEOUS

21. Title Changes: The FBIS table of organization for FY 1969 will include several organizational title changes: the Chief of Operations will be redesignated Chief, Operations Group; the Chief of Production becomes the Chief, Production Group; and the Executive Staff will be renamed the Executive and Planning Staff. (CONFIDENTIAL)

22. Requests for Publications: Any requests for publications or materials under the new U.S. "Freedom of Information Law" should be referred to the Liaison and Requirements Officer. (FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY)

23. Message Indicator: The indicator RYBAT should be used only for classified messages involving sensitive operational or personnel matters. RYBAT should never be used in other cases. (SECRET)

24. Briefing Folders: A briefing folder containing fact sheets on FBIS field installations and Headquarters components, as well as numerous charts and data sheets on FBIS services and publications, has been compiled by the Liaison and Requirements Office and forwarded to field bureaus for use in briefings. (FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY)

S E C R E T

SUBJECT: Letter of Information, 27 May 1968

25. Briefings and Visits: FBIS personnel attended familiarization briefings at the State Department Operations Center, the Voice of America, and the National Security Agency. (CONFIDENTIAL)

Visitors to field bureaus included: Col. Frank Marek, Commander, Kadena Base Commander, to the Okinawa Bureau, 11 April; Mr. Robert Michaels, a member of House Appropriations Committee Staff, to Caribbean Bureau, 17 and 18 April; the Commissioner of Information, North Central State, Malam Sani Zango Dura, and the VOA regional representative in Lagos, Sean Kelly, to the African Bureau. (FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY)

26. Educational Aid Fund: Once a year the Organization requests voluntary contributions to the Educational Aid Fund. Contributions last year amounted to more than \$12,500 and grants awarded totaled \$12,750 to 26 deserving children for the 1967-68 academic year. The fund expects to receive about 150 applications for scholarship assistance for the 1968-69 academic year. Contributions can be forwarded to Headquarters in a sealed envelope addressed to the Secretary of the Educational Aid Fund. See FBIS Notice No. 67-37 (dated 26 December 1967) for additional details. (CONFIDENTIAL)

ADMINISTRATION

27. Tour of Duty Computation: In computing service abroad, full credit is given for the day of arrival and the day of departure. Therefore, a tour is completed on the date prior to the date of arrival two years before. For example, if the day of arrival is 10 April 1967, the legal day of departure will be 9 April 1969. (UNCLASSIFIED)

28. Training: The following personnel recently attended training courses: (CONFIDENTIAL)

- | | | |
|----|---|------|
| a. | <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 150px; height: 1.2em; display: inline-block;"></div> Deputy Chief, EAD - Managerial
Grid, 21-26 April | 50X1 |
| b. | <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 150px; height: 1.2em; display: inline-block;"></div> , Deputy Chief, Operations Group, and
Chief, USSR Division - Senior Manage-
ment Seminar, 12-17 May 1968 | 50X1 |
| c. | <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 150px; height: 1.2em; display: inline-block;"></div> Deputy Chief, Production Group -
Executive Orientation in PPB conducted by Civil
Service Commission, 13-15 May | 50X1 |
| d. | <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 550px; height: 1.2em; display: inline-block;"></div>
Wire Services Staff - Mangement, 6-10 May. | 50X1 |

S E C R E T

SUBJECT: Letter of Information, 27 May 1968

31. Resignations

From

Editor, Publications Division

50X1

Clerk Typist, Publications Division

Teletype Operator, Caribbean Bureau

32. Retirements

From

Watch Officer, Okinawa Bureau

50X1

50X1

ROGER G. SEELY

Director

Foreign Broadcast Information Service

- 10 -

S E C R E T